

**FREE!****Saturday Evening**

# ANIME EXPOSURES

**The Official ANIME EXPO 2000 Newsletter**

- **Masquerade Seating** 7:00p
- **AX2000 Masquerade!** 8:00p
- **Escaflowne Movie** 8:00p
- **Open Karaoke** 8:00p

**Issue 4****Because Animated Minds Want To Know****July 1, 2000**

## Yu Watase Dazzles Her Fans at AX Once Again!

*Number of Yu Watase fans increase with the recently animated 'Ayashi no Ceres' and the new manga 'Imadoki'*

The lines began forming early in the morning for the Yu Watase panel discussion, a veritable competition to the lines of fans waiting for tickets to the masquerade. This is her second year attending AX. Many Watase fans came in dressed as characters from her popular series, Fushigi Yugi. Live Performance 1 filled to capacity, and a smiling Ms. Watase announced that she would like to surprise attendees with a two episode sneak preview of her newest animated series, Ayashi no Ceres.

The audience whooped and cheered before settling down to an hour of anime



*Yu Watase at her focus panel, with a poster for her newly animated creation Ayashi no Ceres in front of her.*

### ANNOUNCEMENTS!

#### - More Video Programming Changes for Saturday!

##### Video Room 1

- 4:45p - Irresponsible Captain Tylor OAV
- 5:15p - Street Fighter Alpha
- 6:00p - Geobreeders
- 6:30p - Voogie's Angels
- 7:00p - Gurzey's Wing
- 7:30p - Mystery video premiere
- 8:15p - Gundam Wing: Endless Waltz
- 9:35p - Pet Shop of Horrors Vol. 2
- 10:30p - [End of Programming]

##### Video Room 4

- 8:10p - Hong Kong films

##### Video Room 5

- 8:10p - Giant Robo Vol. 2

#### - Gaming Schedule Change:

Sunday, 8p, Mediterranean - Playstation Gundam Tourney

**Continued on Page 3**

subtitled especially for AX 2000. This series is currently airing in Japan. A girl named Aya discovers that she is really an angel on her sixteenth birthday, and suddenly, everything in her life changes. When the bishounen male characters appear in the first episode, the females in the audience screamed and clapped, so much so that an embarrassed Watase laughed and hid herself behind her arms, trying to concentrate on watching the television set to her right. At the end of the second episode, Watase received loud acclamation. She smiled and took a small bow.

When questions began, a person stood up to ask something that everyone else seemed to want to know. "Is Nuriko gay?" Watase laughs and thought for a moment. She did not think so, but now that she actually contem-

plates it, maybe. "What exactly is Tasuki and Koji's relationship?" Watase laughs again and says simply, they are just 'good' friends. Another person stood up and asks, "How have the characters you've created changed over time?" Watase notes that her female protagonists are headstrong, or rather they defy their overwhelming circumstances. Both Miaka from Fushigi Yugi and Aya from Ayashi no Ceres mature throughout the story and find wonderful romance along the way. She also believes that her characters should possess kindness and gentleness. "Did you expect such a big reception of Fushigi Yugi in America?" Watase was actually surprised at the popularity and happy to learn that so many fans existed here. Although she doesn't have any current plans to animate a sequel to the Fushigi Yugi nov-  
**See Watase, on Page 2**

# Size Doesn't Matter

## *It's not the size that matters, but what you do with it.*

Down in the murky depths of the lower level at Live Program 2, a group of loyal fans sat and waited for the appearance of The Legend of Galactic Heroes producer Yukio Kukukawa and director Noboru Ishiguro.

Before the panel began, Kukukawa brought along a video to show to the audience. Appearing on the television screen, Kukukawa recalls the inspiration for The Legend of Galactic Heroes (LoGH) animation series from Yoshiaki Tanaka's novels. LoGH was a fifteen-year project with over one hundred characters, detailing the battle between two factions, The Empire, an aristocratic, a patriarchal society and The Free Planets. Because Tanaka's novels were already popular, LoGH already had a strong following. Unfortunately, American audiences are slower to show interest. So far, only fansubs are

the available English versions.

Both Kukukawa and Ishiguro discussed their current projects, producing side stories, from the original story. This series is known as Spiral Labyrinth. The side stories describes the both Reinhart and Yang's young lives and how they became who they are in the original LoGH series.

While American fans want to bring LoGH to the United States, Kukukawa says that a petition will be a great help to convince an anime company to release it to a commercial company. The panel ends with a large group picture of everyone. Raffle tickets were also passed out for twenty free super-deformed LoGH character cells. Attendees can go to the information desk for a list of winners and instruction on how to get the cell.

- Jing Tung

## Pokemon

### A Bust, A Nut, or Simply, "Bust A Nut."

As many of you well know, the 1<sup>st</sup> Pokemon Movie showed earlier today. In essence, this movie was a really long Pokemon episode. We still have Team Rocket relentlessly trying to catch a Pikachu of their own. I, for one, have never understood why a Pikachu is so important to them. But then again, like many of us, I do not follow the Pokemon scene. So we have Team Rocket on the side, but who's the villain? Hmm... The movie is titled, "Mew vs. Mewtwo." Well, I'll just let you in on the secret—the villain is Mewtwo. Mewtwo is a dork, and is having an identity crisis. This worsens when the ever-elusive Mew shows up and begins to challenge Mewtwo. Mewtwo was genetically engineered from a Mew, hence Mewtwo. Did I mention Mewtwo is an arrogant prick? Well, now you know. It is understandable though, somewhat. Mewtwo is only the second Pokemon ever to speak (the first one being Meowth), and the only one to speak without moving its mouth. I guess that saved a bundle



*If you do not know the name of the character pictured above...*

of trouble from the animators. As for Ash and the rest of the humans, they're pretty much the same. They send their drones out to fight. The ending battle (Pokemon v. self) is definitely the highlight of the movie. Mew and Mewtwo's AT Fields colliding was a plus. And the most heartwarming scene: Pikachu slapping Pikachu. All in all, if you like Pokemon, you have probably already seen the movie. If you don't like Pokemon, don't do anything out of the norm. And if you're indifferent, you can watch it when you're terribly horribly bored.

-Paulwei Wang

### Watase from Page 1

els, if Studio Pierrot wants an animated sequel, she would definitely consider it.

When Watase grew up, she enjoyed watching anime on television because she didn't have the allowances available to buy any manga. In high school, she enjoyed watching and reading Rumiko Takahashi's series. Yu Watase had always worked with Shogakukan comics, but she would like to break into the "macho" shounen comics directed at boys. She admitted sheepishly that her original plan was to enter the domain of male comics, but her courage failed her. Thus, she ended up drawing manga for girls. Many of the girls in the audience exclaimed loudly, "Thank goodness!!"

She found inspiration for her manga from the novels she reads. Although none of her characters are her alter egos, many characters do possess some of her qualities. She also admitted that having the great romances her characters have would be wonderful but wishful thinking. Real relationships are not as dramatic, unfortunately. While guys do like her stories, Watase's readers are mostly girls, and even older women. She received a letter from a forty-eight year old woman in Japan who began watching Fushigi Yugi and became a fan of Hotohori. She did not realize that her male characters were good looking, but she tries to diversify them to satisfy everyone. "You did!" a girl responded, and the audience laughed.

Sadly, the question and answer panel came to an end. Some people walked out of Live Performance 1, but many walked in the opposite direction toward the stage, hoping to catch a closer glimpse and talk to Watase. From the audience response, people can't wait to have another chance to meet with Watase once more.

— Jing Tung

## ANNOUNCEMENTS!

(continued from Page 1)

- **Watase Yu will be signing 200 autographs instead of the initially publicized 100.** A new list of Watase Yu autograph winners (the second 100) will be posted tomorrow.

# “Wassup!”

## *Yasushiro Naitow Panel*



*Naitow (center) during his focus panel, looking very Guest-of-Honor-ly.*

Initially working as an ordinary salary man, Mr. Naitow quit to become a manga artist and he soon earned an award at age 27 for his manga art. His career has since taken off with the success of Samurai Spirits and, of course, his most famous title, Trigon.

In discussing Trigon, Mr. Naitow said that the character of Milli often surprises him with the things she says. He was also surprised by his creation of Kuroneko (the mysterious black cat). “Before I realized it, it was there,” he said, “I don’t know where it came from.” As for the manga alter ego Mr. Naitow draws of himself at the end of each volume, “it’s how I picture my mind and spirit to look like.”

After the Trigon anime came out in 1998, Mr. Naitow continued the manga version under a slightly different name: Trigon Maximum. This ongoing manga “does not want to end,” the creator said. “I’m trying to finish it within the next two years, but then I said the same thing two years ago.” For now, Mr. Naitow just wants to cap off his breakthrough series with a “satisfactory ending.” “Only then will I be able to proudly call myself a manga artist.”

In front of an audience of enthused fans, Mr. Naitow explained that bits of the Maximum storyline are integrated into the Trigon anime. Therefore, “[the animation staff] has already closed the story.” “Unless there’s a new media that

can explore new aspects of the series, there won’t be [an anime] sequel.”

Trigon fans should not be too disappointed though. The immense popularity of Trigon, both in Japan and America, has propelled two lines of action figures to be released in both countries (both lines will see American distribution, by Diamond Comics and McFarlane respectively). And there is talk of the manga getting an English translation. After attending AX 2000, Mr. Naitow plans to meet with several editors at the upcoming Comicon in San Diego. Let’s all wish him good luck!

- Wing Fox

***Deathscythe (left) and Nataku (right), Two Gundam Wing model kits exhibited in the Art Show***



# EXPOSED!

## What are the best & worst parts of your current cosplay character?



*"The long wig is really hot, and the heels hurt . . . Best part is getting noticed and receiving gifts. We've also been in the lobby for the past 2 hours trying to get out."*

**Diana Kou**  
(standing)

Moreno Valley, CA  
and  
**Eiko**  
San Fernando  
Valley, CA



*"Best is you don't get attention like this at home! The worst is disrespectful fan boys staring down."*

**Maryssa**  
Long Island, NY



*"Too freaking hot! Best thing is it has bells! Three bells!"*

**Berny Tsung**  
Toronto, Canada



*"Worst thing is its really hot . . . best thing is I got to talk to Naitow because of costume"*

**Otohiko Jacky**  
**Hayakawa**  
Japan



*"There are too many people in character."*

**Selphie**  
Rowland, CA



*"Its too hot and hard to sit down. Good thing is that its cute!"*

**Sherry Weng**  
Huntington  
Beach, CA



*"The best is the attention. But the worst is wearing this 20 pound thing around. But its worth it!"*

**Alice Wuan**  
Walnut, CA



*"No worse parts. All best parts. . . Body, attention, and magical powers."*

**Andrianne Grady**  
Valencia, CA

## SATURDAY LIVE PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE!

### SATURDAY Live Program 1 (Grand Ballroom)

|       |                           |
|-------|---------------------------|
| 6:00P | (Closed for setup)        |
| 7:00  | Masquerade Seating starts |
| 8:00  | Masquerade                |
| 9:00  | Masquerade                |
| 10:00 | Masquerade                |
| 11:00 | Masquerade                |
| 12:00 | -                         |

### Live Program 3 (Avalon)

|                        |
|------------------------|
| Fan/Misc               |
| All night Open Karaoke |
| All night Open Karaoke |
| All night Open Karaoke |
| All night Open Karaoke |
| All night Open Karaoke |
| All night Open Karaoke |

### Film (Marina Ballroom West)

|                  |
|------------------|
| -                |
| Escaflowne Movie |
| Escaflowne Movie |
| -                |
| -                |
| -                |
| -                |

### Gaming (Mediterranean)

|               |
|---------------|
| Lord of Lunar |
| Room Closes   |
| -             |
| -             |
| -             |
| -             |
| -             |